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SELF-BALLASTED ELECTRODELESS FLUORESCENT LAMP
-- This Application is a National Phase Application under 35 USC 371, claiming the benefit of PCT/JP03/09520 filed on 07/28/2003 which has priority based on Japan Application No. 2002-221849 filed on 07/30/2002.--
TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to self-ballasted electrodeless
5 fluorescence, and more particularly relates to self-ballasted electrodeless
fluorescent lamps that can directly replace incandescent lamps.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] Recently, in view of global environmental protection and cost
10 effectiveness, self-ballasted fluorescent lamps with electrodes, which have about
five times higher efficacy than that of incandescent lamps, have been widely used
as substitutes for incandescent lamps in houses, hotels and other places. In
addition to the already existing self-ballasted fluorescent lamps with electrodes,
self-ballasted electrodeless fluorescent lamps have also been studied in recent
15 years. A feature of electrodeless fluorescent lamps is that they have a longer life
than fluorescent lamps with electrodes, owing to the absence of electrode.
Electrodeless fluorescent lamps are thus expected to become widespread in the
future.

[0003] Such a self-ballasted electrodeless fluorescent lamp is disclosed
20 in Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 10-92391, for example. The self-ballasted
electrodeless fluorescent lamp disclosed in the publication is illustrated in FIG. 6.

[0004] The self-ballasted electrodeless fluorescent lamp 200 of FIG. 6
has as the entire device the shape of an incandescent lamp. More specifically, the
lamp 200 is composed of a translucent discharge vessel 201, a coil 203 inserted in
25 a cavity portion 201a of the discharge vessel 201, and a power supply circuit 204